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AMADER PATHSHALA

# Changing lives, quietly but surely

MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

Amader Pathshala has been quietly changing lives of underprivileged children in the capital's Mirpur since the school was established over a decade ago.

Some good souls started the institution to provide education to children in a creative atmosphere at a low cost. The monthly fee is just Tk 50 while the admission fee is between Tk 50 and Tk 100.

"Even this low amount is not charged to those who might struggle to pay," said Abul Hasan Rubel, founder of the school. "The school offers education up to class-VIII and then helps the students get enrolled in other schools. We also provide students with free tuition in the evening."

At present, the school has over 240 students, mostly children of day labourers and garment workers.

Its classrooms remind one that learning is supposed to be fun and that learning is not just memorising.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw a solar

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Students of Amader Pathshala, a school for underprivileged children, cheer during a cultural event on the Victory Day last year. Inset, one of the founders of the school Abul Hassan Rubel, left, and head teacher Tofazzal Hossain hand out the result sheet to a student.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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POLLING CENTRES AT HALLS

# BCL happy; JCD, left bodies not

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University's decision to set up polling centres for the March 11 Ducus election inside its 18 dormitories has sparked mixed reactions among different student bodies.

The pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and all the left-leaning student organisations are against the move. They fear Bangladesh Chhatra League, which currently dominates all those halls, may hamper the election environment.

On the other hand, BCL, the pro-Awami League student organisation, and similar bodies of the ruling party's partners in the 14-party alliance, hailed the decision, saying it was part of a "century-old tradition and custom of the university".

At a press conference at the Madhur Canteen yesterday, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front demanded that the authorities have the polling centres of the Dhaka University

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# British PM faces improbable task

May wins mandate to reopen Brexit deal but EU says no to changes

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Theresa May pinned her hopes on persuading Brussels to rewrite the Brexit divorce deal but EU leaders insisted yesterday they would not budge.

Having comprehensively rejected the withdrawal agreement last month, MPs late Tuesday backed an amendment saying they would support the deal if its controversial "backstop" clause concerning the Irish border was removed.

Bolstered by the mandate from parliament, May made the decision to revisit a pact she herself sealed with the 27 EU leaders at a summit last month.

With Britain otherwise on course for a chaotic exit from the bloc on March 29, May admitted she faces a formidable challenge convincing Brussels to re-open an accord that took 18 excruciating months to conclude.

And there was no sign that European leaders were prepared to unpick the backstop in order to salvage the deal.

A spokesman for EU Council President Donald Tusk swiftly insisted the Brexit deal was "not open for renegotiation".

On Wednesday, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier reiterated: "The position of the European Union is very clear".

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told the Funke media group that the existing draft deal was "the best and only solution for an orderly exit".

"As (EU Council) president (Donald) Tusk said yesterday, we are not offering a renegotiation and renegotiation is not on the table. There is no

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# Man killed in 'gunfight' in Joypurhat

Rab claims victim was drug dealer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A suspected drug dealer was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab members in Keshabpur village of Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila early yesterday.

The dead -- Sohel Rana, 42, son of Solaiman Ali of Uttar Gopalpur village in Panchbibi -- was accused in 10 cases, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Azman Hossain, also the camp commander of Rab in Joypurhat.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the elite force conducted a drive in Keshubpur village around 2:00am to prevent a drug deal, claimed Azman.

Sensing their presence, a group of four to five drug dealers opened fire on the

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# Scientists generate power from Wifi



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have made a huge breakthrough that allows them to convert radio signals into power.

The discovery could allow for phones and other devices that don't use batteries – as well as entirely new ways of using smart technologies.

Scientists in the US developed the device, known as a "rectenna", from a semiconductor just a few atoms thick.

Wifi signals captured by an integrated antenna are transformed into a DC current suitable for electronic circuits.

The device could be used to provide battery-less power for smartphones, laptops, medical devices

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# Grenade attack kills 2 at mosque in Philippines

AFP, Manila

A grenade attack on a mosque in the troubled southern Philippines killed two people early yesterday, authorities said, just days after a deadly Catholic cathedral bombing and a vote backing Muslim self-rule in the region.

The latest blast prompted worries of sectarian retaliation in the majority Catholic Philippines, with authorities urging inter-faith unity as investigators hunted a motive.

The grenade explosion tore through the mosque as the victims were sleeping before dawn on the insurgency-plagued island of Mindanao, which is home to the Philippines' Muslim minority. Four people were wounded in the attack.

Just three days earlier, a

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A pedestrian looks at an overturned rickshaw kept under a signboard, placed by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, restricting rickshaws and carts on Abdull Gani Road in the capital yesterday. Police said the overturned three-wheeler would deter others from plying the road. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Malaysia to open royal inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia will set up a Royal Commission of Inquiry to investigate the existence of human trafficking camps and the graves uncovered three years ago in the hilly area of Wang Kelian, which borders Thailand.

Home Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said the names of the Commission members would be handed over to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the King of Malaysia, for consent but did not mention the names of the members or when the list would be submitted.

The move comes eight months after the new Mahathir Mohamad-led government

came to power and announced its five-year plan to make Malaysia corruption-free.

"The police had previously carried out investigations and prepared reports on these matters but we decided to set up the RCI to avoid any misunderstanding or prejudice," Muhyiddin told reporters after attending the Perlis Malay Congress dialogue session in Arau on January 27, reports Malaysia's state news agency Bernama.

He said the commission would be given six months to probe into the two matters before tabling its report.

In May 2015, police announced the discovery of human trafficking camps and

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION